

Message Text

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16

ORIGIN SS-30

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S/S-O:RELTZ

EUR/EE-JARMITAGE(DRAFT)

EA-AWHUMMEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

INFO USUN NEW YORK

PHNOM PENH

S E C R E T STATE 205545

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: SOVIET RECOGNITION OF SIHANOUK

REF: STATE 202421

1. FOLLOWING THE LEGAL AND BLOODLESS DEPOSITION OF SIHANOUK IN MARCH, 1970 THE USSR PLUS POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BULGARIA, EAST GERMANY AND HUNGARY RETAINED RELATIONS WITH THE KHMER GOVERNMENT AT CHARGE LEVEL. THOSE MISSIONS ARE STILL INTACT AND APPARENTLY UNINSTRUCTED. IN ANY EVENT THEY ARE MAKING NO PERCEPTIBLE MOVES TO EVACUATE PHNOM PENH. HOWEVER PRESS RELEASES IN PEKING INDICATE THAT THE USSR IS SHIFTING SECRET

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ITS POSITION ON THE STATUS OF SIHANOUK AND HIS EXILE REGIME BY STATING THAT IT NOW HOLDS SIHANOUK AS THE "LEGITIMATE CHIEF OF STATE" AND GRUNK AS THE "REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE".

2. IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUED UNCERTAINTY AS TO SOVIET INTENTIONS AS REGARDS THE CAMBODIAN QUESTION BELIEVE

EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK EARLY OPPORTUNITY AND AT HIGH LEVEL
TO ASCERTAIN SOVIET POSITION CONCERNING KHMER
CREDENTIALS AT THE UN. EMBASSY SHOULD ASK SOVIET
OFFICIALS IF IT IS THEIR BELIEF

THAT THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD JOIN THE PRC IN A
CONFRONTATION WITH THE US OVER AN ISSUE THAT WILL BE BEST
RESOLVED BY INTERESTED POWERS HELPING TO CONCILIATE
RATHER THAN EXACERBATE. WE WOULD HOPE THAT USSR
COULD ABSTAIN ON THIS ISSUE AS IT HAS IN THE PAST.

3. WHILE WE DON'T REALLY EXPECT THAT THIS APPROACH
WILL DEFLECT SOVIETS FROM VOTING IN FAVOR OF INSCRIPTION
OF CAMBODIA ITEM IN GENERAL COMMITTEE SESSION SCHEDULED
FOR AFTERNOON OCTOBER 16, WE SEE AN OUTSIDE CHANCE THAT
IT MIGHT DO SO IF YOU FIND IT POSSIBLE TO MAKE APPROACH
OCTOBER 16 MORNING. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE VOTE MAY TAKE
PLACE ONLY OCTOBER 17. IN ANY CASE, APPROACH COULD
HAVE FAVORABLE EFFECT IN THE LONGER TERM, FOR INSTANCE
IN DISPOSING USSR TO ABSTAIN ON AN "IMPORTANT QUESTION"
RESOLUTION WHEN ISSUE REACHES THE PLENARY. YOU SHOULD
NOT, HOWEVER, MENTION THAT ASPECT IN YOUR APPROACH. KISSINGER

SECRET

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